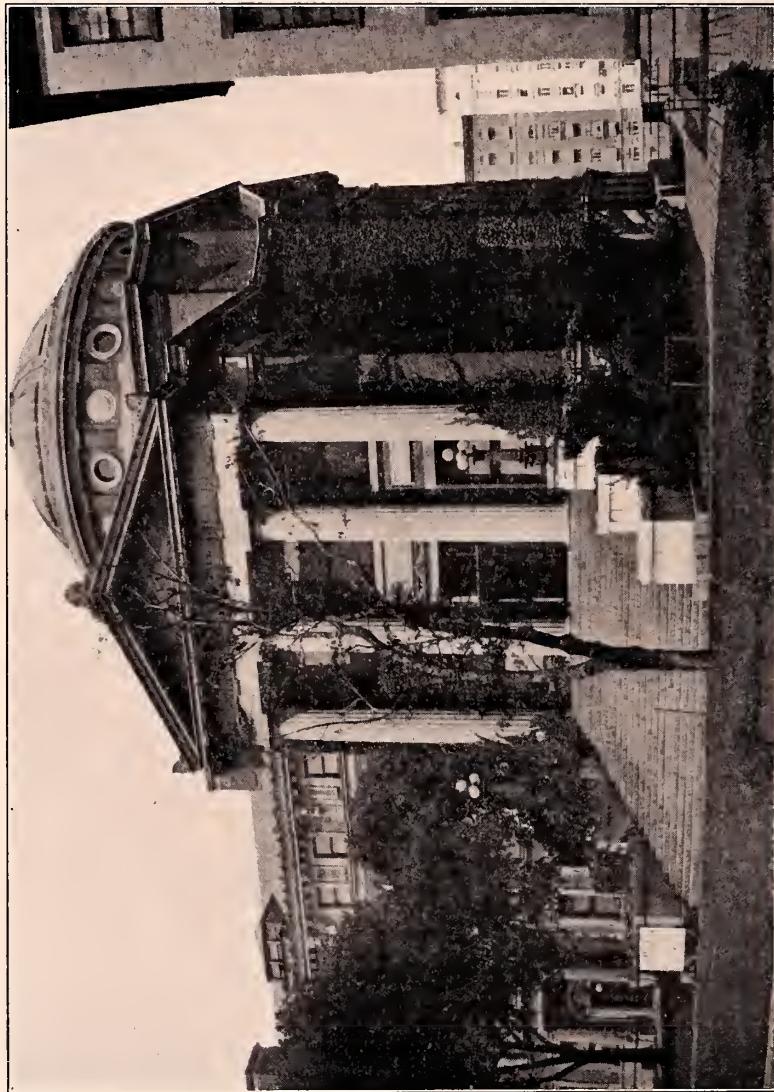


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A New Endowment for International Friendship

BY

HARRY E. EDMONDS



Earl Hall where, through the courtesy of Columbia University, the Intercollegiate Cosmopolitan Club has held many of its meetings during the fourteen years prior to its occupancy of International House

A NEW ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP

By HARRY E. EDMONDS

During the last year a gray mass of brick and stone has raised itself in New York on Riverside Drive nearly opposite Grant's Tomb. It immediately engages one's view, with its main facade facing south on the park where in the Spring, Japanese cherry trees bloom, and across from which are the trees planted by Li Hung Chang in memory of his friend, General Grant. Its windows, row on row, in every direction drawing light, and its two towers, like spires pointing upward into the blue, are symbolical of its intellectual and spiritual aspirations.

One asks, "What is it?" Thereby hangs a tale, and thus the tale begins.

From the uttermost parts of the world they have come—students ten thousand strong—to America seeking its best; the best of its institutions, the best of its industries, and of its civilization; but most of all these eager young people have come to study us—you and me. They come with faith, with an almost childish belief in our greatness and goodness and with a generous spirit of willingness to sit at our feet and learn. Fifteen hundred of these men and women are studying in the colleges and professional schools of New York City. Here they are thrown into the varied surface life of an impersonal city of millions.

Fourteen years ago, a friendly "Good Morning" was spoken to one who was lonely, one who said that no one had greeted him in any way during the three weeks that he had been in New York. An investigation proved that the students

who come many thousands of miles to study in America—only a few of them then—were really “lost” in the great City of New York, with little opportunity to discover beneath its surface any real American life. An invitation to an informal tea on a Sunday afternoon met with such a hearty response that a series of Sunday suppers was planned, and these in turn proved so successful that a further program of hospitality and service was projected. Through the cooperation and interest of many American friends this program has been improved and enlarged, year by year, until now the Club has an active student membership of 800 from 70 countries, studying in 42 colleges and professional schools in Greater New York, and with this wonderful new home center on Riverside Drive, provided through the generosity and international mindedness of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., to be completed this Summer.

International House—the new home for this fourteen year old work—while architecturally one building, is in reality three buildings with separate walls, under one roof. There is the Dormitory for Women, with 125 rooms; the Dormitory for Men, with 400 rooms; and the Club or activities portion of the building to be used by both resident and non-resident members. In this third section are the Social Rooms, the Assembly Hall, Refectory, and Athletic equipment. The building has been under construction for two years and will cost, including land and furnishings, over two and one-half millions.

While closely identified with the universities and other educational institutions and with agencies engaged in furthering international understanding and good will, International House is separately incorporated under a liberal charter which will enable it to carry on its program of international service free of any educational, religious, or political bias.

The Cosmopolitan Club now has a large and active American membership. This will be increased in International House,

on a resident and non-resident basis, for it is recognized as obvious that the objects sought require the hearty and unselfish support of a large number of American students and friends. While International House will be a miniature world with all races, all nationalities, all religions, each with its particular point of view, inheritance and traditions, it will also be to no inconsiderable degree an American University Union—metropolitan, national, international in scope—open to men and women interested in furthering the objects for which it stands.

What are these objects? Broadly speaking, there is only one—"That Brotherhood May Prevail." This is the inscription carved over its main entrance. It is the universal longing today of every human heart that has a mind large enough to grasp the tragedy of the present world.

That brotherhood may prevail!! "Prevail where—in the United States? In America? But this, we must remember, is International House, the home of all nations; hence the meaning is clearly that INTERNATIONAL brotherhood may prevail. That Brotherhood may prevail **THROUGHOUT THE WORLD**. International House, the home of all nations, rising majestically above the greatest city in the world, standing for the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God, shining forth as a beacon light to guide humanity into the safe harbor of world brotherhood, proclaiming to mankind the gospel of peace on earth and good will toward men." Thus spoke Mr. Rockefeller at one of the Sunday suppers.

What are the principal ways in which International House will endeavor to carry out its great purpose? There are at least three. First it will be a **student movement**. Youth is crying out for expression. It wishes to play its part in the new tides of thought that are abroad in the world. It is not content to wait to take the reins from the older generation without having tested its own wings. In the membership of this building there will be a community whose citizens may test out and



THE CANDLE

The Candle Ceremony is an annual event of great beauty and spiritual symbolism in which one representative from each nation, in the costume of his country, lights his neighbor's candle, saying as he passes the light, "I



CEREMONY

represent (giving the name of his country). When all the candles are lighted, the service concludes with these words: "As light begets light, so Love, Service and Goodwill are passed on to others."

see if there be any good in such words as "Responsibility," "Work," "Service," "Truth," "Justice," "Brotherhood," when applied to a community that is really a replica of the world itself.

International House, in the second place, will be an educational undertaking. From the point of view that "a university is not a place where everything is taught, but one to which everyone may come," it will be a world university. Charles Lamb is reputed to have said to a friend whom he was dining at his London Club, "Do you see that fellow over there? I hate him." "Who is he?" said his friend. "I don't know," said Lamb. "That's why I hate him." This well illustrates the educational problem and opportunity of International House. Out of wholesome student activities—the bumping of physical elbows in friendly rivalry in the athletic equipment, and the intellectual give and take of friendly intercourse—will come about an educational process that will make itself felt in many lands.

Something like this happened in Paris nearly a thousand years ago. The fame of Abelard, a scholar of great learning, drew students to Paris, from all over Europe. They came in such numbers, and most of them had so little money that they were obliged to construct rude huts in the suburbs, of mud and fagots. They came out of the darkness of the middle ages. They listened to the lectures of the renowned Monk. Then they talked things over amongst themselves. The knowledge which they derived from one another in their rude huts became the light of a common understanding. Upon returning to their various countries, they passed this light to their fellow countrymen and soon the ignorance and prejudice of the dark ages gave way to the dawn of the age of learning. The Renaissance had come!! May not something similar take place in our day from within the four walls of International House? As steel and stone are stronger than mud and fagots, so may we take

courage to believe that International House may influence a world as the pupils of Abelard influenced a continent.

In the third place this will be a **spiritual** movement. Not in the rivalry of the adherents of different sects or religions, each trying to prove his the best, but in a spirit of reciprocity, loving his own, and trying to see the good in his neighbors. It will be a spiritual movement as it gives its members the opportunity to evaluate truth, come from the ends of the earth, in the laboratory of human experience. They will learn, whatever the color of their skin, however ancient their cult, that no man, or group, or nation has a copyright on truth. They will test great world forces by this word. Applied to international affairs, they will hardly be able to escape the conviction that war is murder, "spheres of influence" are stealing, "propaganda" is lying; and in the realm of religion, that adherents of time worn phrases will not bring together a world for fellowship and service.

Thus, as a student movement, an educational undertaking, and a spiritual enterprise, International House has a promising future. Does it not give us faith in the possibilities of kindness and good will when we see how a morning greeting can develop into an opportunity for world friendship?



Representatives in costume who took part in last year's Candle Ceremony



Legend of the Seals

The hemisphere seals, though individual in expression, are united—a sphere of common purpose—for the furthering of brotherhood through Love, Service, and Goodwill.

The Intercollegiate Cosmopolitan Club seal represents the passing of the "light"—the symbolic feature of the Candle Ceremony which is given at the farewell Sunday supper of each year. The book typifies the open page of opportunity, turned each year as the new students come from the various countries of the world.

The International House seal shows maps of the world which signify the breadth of its hospitality. The ship is the carrier of student embassies of understanding and appreciation who take the spirit of brotherhood to other lands. The star shines as a light and guide to high purposes.

These seals will be used as the official stamp of the corporation; they will be cut on the stone disks on either side of the main entrance arch; and will be a decorative feature of the Assembly Hall.

The office of the Intercollegiate Cosmopolitan Club located heretofore at 2929 Broadway was moved May 1st to the new building. Mail should be addressed to "International House, Riverside Drive, New York."

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